

REMARKS

In the July 13, 2003 Office Action, claims 1-4, 6-15, 19-22, 25-32 and 50-63 were allowed, claims 64, 66-69 and 71 stand rejected in view of prior art, while claims 65 and 70 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the July 13, 2003 Office Action, Applicants have amended claims 64 and 69 as indicated above and claims 65 and 70 have been cancelled. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and the thorough examination of this application. Thus, claims 1-4, 6-15, 19-22, 25-32, 50-64, 66-69 and 71 are pending, with claims 1, 13, 62, 63, 64 and 69 being the only independent claims. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of above amendments and the following comments.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

In paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Office Action, claims 64, 66-69 and 71 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,653,649 (Watarai) or in the alternative, rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). In response, Applicants have amended independent claims 64 and 69 to clearly define the present invention over the prior art of record. Specifically, claim 64 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 65 and claim 69 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 70.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 64 and 69, as now amended, are not anticipated by the prior art of record. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/721,070
Appl. Filed: November 26, 2003
Amendment dated October 7, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 13, 2005

Moreover, Applicants believe that the dependent claims 66-68 and 71 are also allowable over the prior art of record in that they depend from independent claims 64 and 69, respectively, and therefore are allowable. Also, the dependent claims 66-68 and 71 are further allowable because they include additional limitations. Thus, Applicants believe that since the prior art of record does not anticipate the independent claims 64 and 69, neither does the prior art anticipate dependent claims 66-68 and 71.


Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraph 6 of the Office Action, claims 1-4, 6-15, 19-22, 25-32 and 50-63 were indicated as allowed. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and the thorough examination of this application.

* * *

In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-4, 6-15, 19-22, 25-32, 50-64, 66-69 and 71 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


John C. Robbins
Reg. No. 34,706

SHINJYU GLOBAL IP COUNSELORS, LLP
1233 Twentieth Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036
(202)-293-0444
Dated: October 7, 2005

G:\10-OCT05-KK\SN-US035135 Amendment.doc